

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 180428Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5303

S E C R E T CANBERRA 1693

STADIS/EXIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE WHITLAM VISIT

REF: (A) CANBERRA 1636; (B) CANBERRA 1663; (C) STATE 58891

1. RENOUF TELLS ME SHAW HAS REPORTED THAT, ACCORDING TO "A WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL", AFTERNOON MAY 7 LOOKS GOOD FOR APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT. THIS UNIDENTIFIED OFFICIAL EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER PRG INFORMATION OFFICE. ON LEARNING THIS, WHITLAM TOLD RENOUF TO PUT OFF OPENING OF PRG OFFICE TO AVOID PROBLEMS OR EMBARRASSMENT ON WASHINGTON VISIT.

2. WHITLAM WOULD LIKE TO CALL ALSO ON VICE PRESIDENT, AND ON CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS.

3. RENOUF WILL ACCOMPANY PRIME MINISTER TO JAMAICA AND, IF VISIT MATERIALIZES, TO WASHINGTON. PM IS NOW TALKING OF SHORT VISITS ALSO TO VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA.

4. DURING CLEMENTS AND ZURHELLEN DISCUSSION WITH RENOUF, PROPOSAL WAS MADE THAT WHITLAM MIGHT BENEFIT FROM CLASSIFIED BRIEFING ON SOVIET PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN BASIN. (AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, DFA, ADOD AND JIO ARE FRUSTRATED BY THEIR INABILITY TO GET PM TO FOCUS ON FACTS RELATED TO ISSUES--PARTICULARLY INDO-CHINA--WHERE PM HAS A PREESTABLISHED IDEOLOGICAL POSITION.) RENOUF HAS CHECKED WITH PM WHO WOULD BE AMENABLE TO A BRIEFING AT AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY RESIDENCE AS ARRANGED ON HIS LAST VISIT BY

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WALTERS AND DUCKETT.

5. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT TAKE INITIATIVE IN SETTING UP SUCH PRESENTATION BY TOP INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY BRIEFERS. IT SHOULD BE CAREFULLY TAILORED TO BOTH HIS INTERESTS AND OUR OBJECTIVES, PERHAPS TOUCHING, IN ADDITION TO INDIAN OCEAN, UPON INDO-CHINA INCLUDING SOVIET AND CHINESE AID, AND UPON SALT AND GLOBAL DETERRENCE SITUATION. OBVIOUSLY THE KEY CONTRIBUTION OF OUR JOINT FACILITIES WOULD AGAIN EMERGE IN SUCH DISCUSSION.

6. AFTER SUCH A BRIEFING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED, WE MIGHT CONFIDENTIALLY ASK PM IF THERE ARE SUBJECTS HE WOULD PARTICULARLY LIKE TO HAVE INCLUDED.
HARROP

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